

## June 2007

Welcome to the twenty-sixth edition of the **MassGIS GISette**, a bi-monthly newsletter e-mailed to over 1,500 of our users and partner agencies to keep them informed of data updates, GIS events, and on-going technology developments. This newsletter will not replace more focused e-mails that many of you currently receive. A page on our website has been created for the [GISette](#). There you will find back issues of the GISette and an [online subscription form](#).

While our primary intent in publishing the GISette is to disseminate information related to MassGIS initiatives and data development in particular, we also see the GISette as a means of communicating public agency GIS news. So we encourage readers to send in updates or announcements concerning public agencies that they would like included in the GISette. We particularly want to encourage submission of announcements concerning data development projects. Announcements should be sent to Paul Nutting at [paul.nutting@state.ma.us](mailto:paul.nutting@state.ma.us).

### Google Maps Mashups Using MassGIS Data

As a part of providing our online web-mapping services, MassGIS now provides step by step instructions to help those already using [Google Maps](#) to integrate MassGIS data into their online web maps. You can find the [MassGIS Google Maps mashup tutorial here](#).

Please note that familiarity with creating your own Google Maps mashups is required to complete the tutorial. This includes some knowledge of JavaScript and HTML, and the ability to host your own web-page online.

Let us know if you make a MassGIS-Google Maps mashup, as we'd love to feature a gallery of MassGIS data in real life web mapping sites!

### NAVTEQ-The Shape of Things to Come

[NAVTEQ](#) is changing the way that it provides street name aliases for the NAVSTREETS database. Previously they created a duplicate arc for each alias name. In the latest release, they have moved the alias names to a separate table and eliminated the duplicate arcs.

ESRI does not support a separate alias table when geocoding with Shapefiles. Therefore we will no longer offer the Shapefile option for future releases of the NAVTEQ geocoding package. The primary side effect of this change is that ArcView 3.x geocoding will no longer be supported in future data updates; however the current dataset will still work.

We will continue to offer personal geodatabase versions of the data along with the associated address locators, and will also add a file geodatabase option to future releases for those government agencies authorized to use the licensed data.

## TIGER Tamed

In March of 2007, the [Census Bureau](#) released updated and realigned Census 2000 TIGER files for all counties in Massachusetts. This data represents a vast improvement in geographic accuracy from its year 2000 counterpart, as the MassGIS 1:5,000 centerlines were the benchmark used for realignment. MassGIS has begun processing this data in preparation for distribution, and continues to coordinate efforts with the Census Bureau to resolve a few outstanding issues. It is expected that these final technical glitches will be ironed out quickly, and this data should become available on the MassGIS website in late summer/early autumn this year.

## The Answer My Friend...

MassGIS is now distributing [raster modeled wind speed data](#) for the New England region, and a processed vector version covering all of inland Massachusetts and some coastal areas.

The original data comes courtesy of the [Massachusetts Technology Collaborative](#), and was provided to assist in efforts by EOEEA to locate potential sites for the development of wind energy facilities. While the scale of the data is regional, it can provide a good preliminary view when identifying candidate sites that should be studied further for their renewable energy potential.

## Where We Are Going

As many of you know, in January, MassGIS initiated development of a Strategic Plan for Massachusetts' Spatial data Infrastructure. The project is being overseen by a Steering Committee of stakeholder organizations. The consultant for the project is AppGeo. The project started with a series of six workshops around the state. Those workshops were followed by about two-dozen in-depth interviews with key stake-holder organizations. The Steering Committee reviewed findings from the workshops and commented on the outline for and the draft of the Strategic Plan. The project is now in its last weeks and the final report is expected out in late June. Those who attended the workshops will receive an announcement of the reports availability when it is released. Once released, the report will be on the [Strategic Plan page](#) on MassGIS' web site.

## Database Updates

- **New [Modeled Wind Speed Grids](#) - 6/14/2007**  
Four new raster layers model representations of wind velocities at heights of 30, 50, 70 and 100 meters. Data includes all of New England.
- **State Legislative Districts Layers Updated - 5/22/2007**  
On 5/22/2007, two attribute changes were made to the [House](#) polygon layer based on special elections in the 11th Norfolk and 14th Worcester districts. On 1/12/2007, attribute updates were made to the [House](#) and [Senate](#) layers to reflect changes based on the November, 2006, elections.
- **[Soils Layer](#) Updated - 5/18/2007**  
Soils polygons and Access databases are now available for the Hampden Central, Hampshire Central, and Worcester Northwest survey areas. Special features are now available for Hampden Central and Hampshire Central, with Worcester Northwest to follow at a later date.

- **[Ice Rinks Layer](#) Updated** - 5/17/2007

This point dataset, available since 2/21/07, has been updated with a new rink, "The Bog", in Kingston. The layer contains all of the ice skating rinks and arenas in Massachusetts.

- **Updates to DEP Public Water Supply Layers** - 5/1/07

The MassDEP GIS Group has updated the following layers:

- [Public Water Supplies](#)
- [Zone IIs, IWPA](#)
- [Surface Water Protection Areas \(Zone A, B, C\)](#)

- **[EOT-OTP Roads](#) Updated** - 4/26/2007

The Year-end 2006 release is now available for the Executive Office of Transportation-Office of Transportation Planning Roads layer, along with the Major Roads and Major Routes layers.

## **ArcMap Tips**

### **Notice on ArcGIS 9.2 and Adobe Reader 8.1**

Upgrading to Adobe Reader 8.1 may cause problems with ArcGIS 9.2. After upgrading Adobe Reader to version 8.1, when you open ArcMap documents you may see a Windows Installer popup asking for the original ArcGIS setup program. If you experience this, insert the original ArcGIS media, let it do its thing, and the problem should be solved, without the need to do this again. One user thought that the source of the problem was having ArcMap open when upgrading Reader. For now, at least until ESRI addresses this, the best bet may be to hold off on the Adobe 8.1 upgrade. To avoid any automatic upgrade of Adobe Reader, you can try these steps:

In the Reader application, click Help > Check for Updates... (last menu choice) then uncheck the Automatically Check for Updates checkbox.

The scary part is that when you close the box, it acts as if an update is in progress! Choose Quit.

### **ArcMap Tool Shortcuts**

Sometimes the most tedious part of working in ArcMap is the constant switching between tools, and it can also be a serious productivity drain when performing operations that require frequent switching. For example, if you are zooming and panning around a map to identify features, you may be repeatedly switching between the Zoom In, Zoom Out, Pan, and Identify tools.

ArcMap 9.1 and older versions had keyboard shortcuts built in to the Edit Tool which allowed you to switch from the Edit tool to a subset of other tools by pressing and holding down a key and then switch back to the Edit tool by releasing the key.

These shortcuts have been extended to all tools in ArcMap 9.2. Using the previous example, you can switch from the Identify tool to the Zoom In, Zoom Out, or Pan tool by pressing and holding the Z, X, or C key, respectively. To switch back to the Identify tool you simply release the key.

There are many other shortcuts as well, and mastering them is worth the effort considering the potential time savings. For complete details, see the following:

[ArcUser article](#) (includes other timesaving tips)

[Foldout brochure](#)

[Desktop help](#)

## **Announcements**

Starting as a volunteer, then an intern, and ultimately moving into a map order fulfillment role, **Hugh Mattison** has been with MassGIS for several years. Unfortunately, our limited funding can no longer support his position and he is moving on. As with most MassGIS employees, Hugh's duties were not restricted to one role and he has made several beneficial contributions to our operations. Primarily, he created and often enhanced a [Massachusetts General Purpose Reference Map](#), which has become quite popular. We wish Hugh well in his future endeavors.

The [NEARC 2007](#) Vermont Host Committee welcomes your nominations for the Peter S. Thacher Award. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated commitment and excellence in using Geographic Information System technology to achieve success in natural resource management and conservation at the local level.

The Host Committee will choose the recipient of the 2007 award, to be presented at this year's NEARC conference in Burlington, Vermont, November 4 through 7. If you know of someone from Massachusetts or elsewhere who deserves consideration, please send your nomination with as much information as you can about why you are nominating that person, before August 1 to:

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Any comments or suggestions about the GISette are welcomed [paul.nutting@state.ma.us](mailto:paul.nutting@state.ma.us).

MassGIS-The Commonwealth's Office of Geographic and Environmental Information is located within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and is charged with the collection, enhancement, storage and dissemination of the Commonwealth's geographic data.

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